



## *The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station*

123 HUNTINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 1106, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06504

*Putting Science to Work for Society  
Protecting Agriculture, Public Health, and the Environment*

*Founded 1875*

**To:** Senator Formica, Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and other members of the Appropriations Committee

**From:** Dr. Theodore G. Andreadis, Director, The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

**Date:** February 17, 2016

I want to thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony concerning the Governor's FY 18-19 budget recommendations for The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. I fully appreciate the difficult budgetary times in which we find ourselves as Connecticut has been stubbornly slow to recover from the recession. I further recognize the need for the State to live within its means and fully acknowledge that you have a very difficult task before you.

As a relatively small agency, we have always operated on a very lean budget and have never requested more than we absolutely need. In fiscal year 2017, the Experiment Station's budget was substantially cut by 12%. These holdbacks and rescissions were painful, and as a result the agency has struggled this past year to meet its core mission of conducting world-class scientific research, providing important needed services to Connecticut businesses and residents and meeting our statutory responsibilities and functions with regard to research, regulation and public service in our four core areas: agriculture, environment (including forestry), food safety and public health. These obligations were largely achieved through elimination of one department, retirements of clerical, scientific and managerial staff, and increased acquisition of highly competitive federal grants by our scientists.

The Governor's recommended budget for FY 18-19 is equally lean and will present similar challenges. However, it does include modest baseline adjustments that restore funds for utility and operating costs for our laboratories, our state-wide mosquito surveillance and virus testing program, and the hiring of a nursery inspector to fulfill our statutory responsibilities. Although this level of funding is less than optimal and below our agency request, I wish to inform you that pending any further adjustments, we feel confident that we can meet our statutory functions, maintain our current research programs and provide the level of service that citizens and businesses in the State have come to expect from us with this budget.

For over 140 years, we have strived to achieve ground-breaking discoveries with an unbridled commitment to public service as we have advanced the frontiers of knowledge to solve the region's most challenging problems and improve the quality of life for citizens across the state. Thank you again for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to call on me if you have any questions or require more information. Please feel free to e-mail me at [theodore.andreadis@ct.gov](mailto:theodore.andreadis@ct.gov) or contact me by phone at (203) 974-8440.

Sincerely,

Theodore G. Andreadis, Ph.D.  
Director